

Minutes of the meeting of Watton Town Council held on

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Wayland Hall

Councillors Present: - Don Saunders - Chairman, Peter Bishop, Tina Cruz, Stan Hebborn, Sue Hebborn, Tomos Hutchings, Graham Martin, Kathryn Stallard, Gillian Tarrant.

Officer present: Jane Scarrott Clerk

Also present: District/County Council Claire Bowes and 16 members of the public

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED AND APPROVED from**

Tony Bridges, Keith Gilbert, Tina Kiddell, Catherine Turley-Long and Steve Turley-Long. Noted that Tobi Amadasun has resigned as a Town Councillor.

**2. NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST MADE**

**3. MINUTES**

**3.1** The Minutes of the meeting held on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3.2** Updates from items raised at the meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2024:

- Final version of the Breckland Council Public Open Spaces & Playing Field Survey was submitted to the consultants 12.09.24.
- Breckland District Council has been informed that Watton Town Council will not accept maintenance costs for foot fall counters in the High Street.
- A Breckland Council Officer will undertake a site visit 02.10.24 to look at locations for the “No Litter” and “No Dog Fouling” signs for the High Street as agreed for purchase.
- Representations from Watton & Saham Flood Action Group have been submitted for planning application 3PL/2024/0685/HOU.

**4. REPORTS**

**4.1** Chairman’s Report

The Chairman has been away and had nothing to report.

**4.2** Vice-Chairman’s Report

The Vice-Chairman had nothing to report.

**4.3** District Councillor’s Report / **4.4** County Councillors Report

District and County Councillor Claire Bowes gave a verbal report.

Points noted:

- A permanent Banking Hub should be opening soon in the former Barclays Bank building in Watton High Street.
- A public consultation regarding the introduction of car parking charges should begin around the end of October.
- 2 more High Street shops are to have shop front upgrades through grant funding from Breckland.

- Breckland Council has submitted a proposal relating to warding patterns which will result in the number of Breckland Councillors increasing from 49 to 51.
- The devolution deal for Norfolk has been scrapped by the Government.

No other District Councillors present.

#### 4.5 Clerks Report

Written report presented in Councillors Agenda packs with verbal update given:

- Breckland Officer and SERCO Team Leader visited the TC Office 09.09.24 to help clarify responsibilities. Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Cllr Hutchings were present.
- CPRE/NPPF Consultation email forwarded to Councillors on 17.09.24. Correspondence from the Leader of Breckland Council regarding the NPPF and the effect on the Local Plan shared 24.09.24
- The Breckland Officer leading on the pedestrianisation of Middle Street plans to meet TC members or share the consultation designs with the Town Council once Breckland District Councillors have seen the plans.

#### 4.6 Reports from Lead Councillors

- Youth Provision – Lead Councillor sent apologies.
- Report from Market Lead Councillor presented and noted.

### 5. FIREWORKS 2024

**5.1** An update from the Events & Marketing Officer on the Fireworks Event 2024 was provided in the agenda pack for the meeting.

**5.2** A Firework Event planning meeting was held on 19.09.24 when the determination by Breckland Council that stallholders at the free event must hold a street trading licence was considered. Street trading licences are not requested if an entry fee is charged at the event and thus **it was resolved** that a one penny per person entrance fee would be charged. The public will be informed of the charge and the reasoning behind the decision to charge via social media.

Noted that the offer from District Councillor Claire Bowes to investigate and challenge this seeming licencing absurdity was accepted.

### 6. WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Works in Progress list was received.

It was requested that the Walsingham Gates should now be painted as referenced in the Works in Progress List.

### 7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Item 14

Members of the public were present to talk about Wayland Fields and it was agreed that item 14 would be considered at this point in the meeting.

Residents of Wayland Fields are looking to alter the current s106 agreement which has the responsibility for maintaining common areas on the estate sitting with the residents of Wayland Fields.

There is concern that there is a lack of fencing around the water filled attenuation tanks and no emergency buoyancy aids.

The Town Council is not responsible for anything on the Wayland Fields estate and will not accept any responsibility in the future. A decision has been taken by the Council not to adopt estate amenities from developers.

The Town Council **resolved** to write to the Breckland Council Building Inspector raising concerns in relation to public health issues in that Watton Town Council believes that there are insufficient resources to ensure the safety of members of the public in the vicinity of the attenuation tanks on the Wayland Fields development.

- Noted that a member of the public had submitted a report, which was included within the agenda pack for the meeting, outlining costings of Watton car parks.

## **8. CAR PARKING CHARGES**

Mark Bunning spoke briefly on the car parking report he had supplied to Councillors and he was thanked for the work he has undertaken researching and reporting on the Breckland car parking charges.

**It was resolved** to hold discussions with Breckland District Council regarding the possibility that the Town Council can take over the car parks in the town.

Noted that George Freeman MP has offered to speak with Councillors regarding the towns car parks.

## **9. FINANCE**

**9.1** Payments for September 2024 were approved for payment as presented, with the addition of £250 for the Watton & Wayland Times.

## **10. GRANTS**

**10.1 It was resolved** to grant £200 to 1<sup>st</sup> Watton Rainbows as requested.

**10.2 It was resolved** to clarify the grant amount requested by 2<sup>nd</sup> Watton (RAF) Brownies and put the grant request from the group back on a future Town Council agenda.

## **11. DISTRICT COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARIES**

As the number of District Councillors in Breckland is to rise from 49 to 51, Breckland District Council has submitted proposed new warding for the Breckland Area.

The proposal includes splitting Watton parish into two areas to achieve the necessary electoral equality. A new ward has been suggested to include Saham Toney with the western end of Watton.

The Town Council feels it has not been adequately informed or consulted by Breckland Council on the proposed ward changes and that if asked it would have suggested part of Carbrooke should have been included within the ward for the eastern end of Watton.

**It was resolved to** contact the Boundary Commission and Breckland Council stating that Watton Town Council feels that it was not given sufficient time to respond to Brecklands submission.

## 12. BRIDLE ROAD PLAY AREA

**It was resolved to** accept the price of £2040 for Norfolk Conservation Volunteers to undertake 6 days work at Bridle Road Play Area as outlined in the Town Council agenda pack for this meeting.

## 13. COMMEMORATIVE TREES

In response to correspondence received from Breckland Council relating to possible areas where commemorative trees could be planted within the parish **it was resolved** that the Town Council would not accept any commemorative trees on land it is responsible for.

## 14. WAYLAND FIELDS – *see public participation*

## 15. WAYLAND HALL AERIAL SURVEY

The findings within the Aerial Survey Report relating to the chimney at Wayland Hall were noted and the chimney will be monitored as suggested. Other works to be undertaken to Wayland Hall will be considered by the Finance Committee.

## 16. TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

**16.1 It was resolved** that Cllr Tomos Hutchings will be the Town Council representative at meetings of the Wayland Partnership. A report from the Wayland Partnership Meeting held on 16.09.24 was provided by Cllr Hutchings.

**16.2** The Chairman offered to seek further clarification from Watton Sports Association regarding the Town Council appointing a non-executive member to Watton Sports Association 'Board'.

## 17. PLANNING

17.1 3DC/2024/0176/DOC - Proposal Discharge of Condition No8 on 3PL/2022/1080/D - Land to Rear of 3/3a Dereham Road IP25 6ER WATTON

No comments as felt this is an Officers decision

17.2 3PL/2024/0732/F – Proposal - Change of use of premises to hot food takeaway (sui generis) and extract ventilation ducted to roof - 39 High Street IP25 6AB WATTON

No comment

17.3 3PL/2024/0733/A – Proposal - Installation of new illuminated shop front signage - 39 High Street IP25 6AB WATTON

*Clarification will be sought regarding the regulations covering signage in Watton High Street.*

**18. It was resolved** to exclude the public and press to consider confidential matters

18.1 Thetford Road Allotments

**It was resolved not to** re-allocate plot 13 at the Thetford Road Allotment site to the current holder of the tenancy agreement.